

REMARKS

The Office Action addresses claims 1-14. Applicant acknowledges Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9-11 and 14 with thanks. Claims 1-8, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103. By the foregoing, claim 1 is canceled and new claims 15-17 are presented for consideration. Claims 2-17 remain in the application. In light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, the claims remaining in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are courteously solicited.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meader et al. U.S. Patent No. 5 863 050 in view of Jones et al. U.S. Patent No. 6 557 866. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 having been canceled, the rejection over Meader et al. '050 and Jones et al. '866 should be considered moot. Claims 2-7 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 15. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

With regard to claim 8, Meader et al. '050 discloses a ski or snowboard having an insert plate provided within the ski for securing bindings thereto. Referring to Figure 6, and the specification, column 6, lines 28-44, the insert plate is secured between a base layer and a top layer, thereby being completely contained within the interior of the snowboard. Threaded bosses or inserts 18 abut the underside of the top surface of the snowboard, threaded holes therein being aligned with apertures in the top surface of the snowboard. Subsequently, the snowboard is foam-filled, encasing the insert plate within the snowboard. Subsequent to the formation of the snowboard, with the insert plate embedded therein, bindings can be attached to the upper surface of the snowboard by means of threaded fasteners.

In contrast, claim 8 is directed to a method for producing a sliding board comprising the steps of attaching an

element comprising at least one guide element for arranging and guiding a binding element by passing at least one anchoring element through at least one opening in the pre-formed upper shell, joining together the sliding board upper part, and foaming the core so that the anchoring element is connected to the core when the foam hardens. Meader et al.

'050 clearly does not disclose the step of "passing at least one anchoring element through at least one opening in the pre-foamed upper shell". Prior to foaming the core, all elements of the snowboard disclosed by Meader et al. '050 are contained within the upper and lower surfaces of the snowboard. The insert plate of Meader et al. '050 is aligned with apertures of the upper surface of the snowboard before being secured in place, however, no portion of the insert plate is passed through an opening in the upper surface prior to foaming the core of the snowboard. Therefore, Meader et al. '050 does not disclose all of the elements of claim 8. Jones et al. '866 further does not disclose this element. Therefore, Claim 8 should be considered patentable over the cited references. Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 8 and should be considered patentable therewith. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8, 12 and 13 and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim 15 is directed to a sliding board comprising, inter alia, a rail-type guiding element connected to the sliding board body by an anchoring element being in one piece with the guiding element. This feature is not disclosed in the prior art of record.

Claim 16 is directed to a sliding board comprising, inter alia, anchoring elements inserted into a rail-type guiding element and bearing against the rail-type guiding element, the anchoring elements being integrated into the core when it is foamed, in direct contact with the foam. These elements are not disclosed by the prior art of record.

Claim 17 is directed to a method for producing a sliding board, comprising, inter alia, the steps of attaching a guide

element on an upper surface of the sliding board upper part by passing an anchoring element integrally formed on the guide element through an opening in the preformed upper part, and foaming the core so that the anchoring element is secured within the core when the foam hardens. These steps are not disclosed in the prior art.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the claims remaining in the application should be considered in condition for allowance and early notice of allowability is courteously solicited. If necessary to further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representatives listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


for David G. Boutell

DGB/DJW/jas

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL
& TANIS, P.C.
2026 Rambling Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1631
Phone: (269) 381-1156
Fax: (269) 381-5465

David G. Boutell
Terryence F. Chapman
Mark L. Maki
Liane L. Churney
John A. Waters
Brian R. Tumm
Donald J. Wallace
Stephen C. Holwerda
Dale H. Thiel
Sidney B. Williams, Jr.
Heon Jekal
*limited recognition number

Reg. No. 25 072
Reg. No. 32 549
Reg. No. 36 589
Reg. No. 40 694
Reg. No. 24 802
Reg. No. 36 328
Reg. No. 43 977
Reg. No. 57 391
Reg. No. 24 323
Reg. No. 24 949
Reg. No. L0379*

Encl: Postal Card

136.07/05